

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 12-24 remain in the case. Claims 10-11 have been cancelled without prejudice. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested.

Reference numeral 35 has been added to Figs. 4-6.


Independent claims 1,12,13 and 19 have been amended to include subject matter from previously allowed claims 10 and 11. The subject matter of claim 10 has been incorporated into claims 1 and 12. The subject matter of claim 11 has been incorporated into claims 13 and 19.

In view of the foregoing Amendments and these Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-9 and 12-24 are now in condition for allowance and early notification of same is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would help further the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the listed telephone number.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge underpayment of any fees (including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 for additional claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. \$1.17 including any fee for extension of time) associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-0272. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted
on behalf of Applicant,

Date: 2-4-04


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